

2017

Identifying and Supporting Human Trafficking Victims in the Child Welfare System

University of Michigan Law School

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MICHIGAN LAW

PROBLEM SOLVING INITIATIVE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

April 11, 2017

2:00 pm – 3:45 pm

University of Michigan Law School

AGENDA

2:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Alicia Davis

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives & Professor of Law

2:05 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDENT CHALLENGE

Bridgette Carr

Clinical Professor of Law

2:10 P.M.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

2:30 P.M.

JUDGING PANEL Q&A AND COMMENTS

3:15 P.M.

AUDIENCE Q&A AND COMMENTS

MODERATED BY

Vivek Sankaran

Clinical Professor of Law

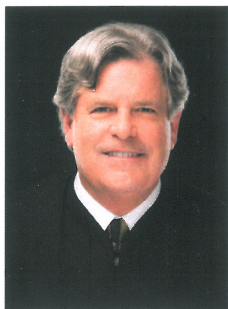
3:45 P.M.

CLOSING

THE PROBLEM

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY
PARENTS IN CHILD WELFARE
CASES WHO ARE VICTIMS
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
AND TRAUMA-INFORMED
SERVICES TO THESE PARENTS
TO INCREASE CHILD SAFETY
AND REDUCE PARENT
RECIDIVISM?

JUDGES



THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY P. CONNORS

Washtenaw County Trial Court

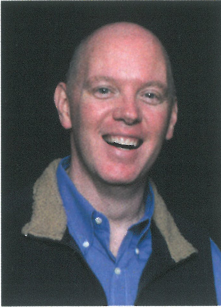
The Hon. Tim Connors has been a state court judge since 1991. For 11 of those years he served as a chief judge. He has served by appointment as judge pro tem for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Judge Connors is the presiding judge of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court. He also presides over cases in the civil and domestic divisions of the Washtenaw County Trial Court and handles the neglect and abuse docket for the Juvenile Court.

Judge Connors is the author of "Exit, Pursued By a Bear, Why Peacemaking Makes Sense in State Court Justice Systems" (American Bar Association Judges Journal, Fall 2016); "Our Children are Sacred, Why the Indian Child Welfare Act Matters" (American Bar Association Judges Journal, Spring 2011); and "Crow Dogs vs. Spotted Tail: Case Closed?" (Michigan Bar Journal, July 2010). He coauthored "Tribal Court Peacemaking: A Model for the Michigan State Court System?" (Michigan Bar Journal, June 2015).

In 2016, Judge Connors was the recipient of the Reverend Thomas H. Smith Humanitarian Service Award from the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 2015, Judge Connors received the Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award from the Michigan Judges Association. The award "honors judges who serve their profession and their communities with integrity, skill, and courage every day." Judge Connors is a three-time recipient of the Justice Blair Moody Award for Significant Contributions to Judicial Excellence. In 2014, Judge Connors was awarded the Child Welfare Jurist of the Year Award by the Foster Care Review Board. He also received the Peace Builder Award on behalf of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court from the Dispute Resolution Center. This award was given "in recognition of outstanding commitment to the practice of just and humane resolution of social conflict." Further in 2014, dbusiness, Detroit's premier business journal, recognized Judge Connors as one of the "top circuit court judges" in Southeast Michigan. This recognition was based on integrity, knowledge of the law, efficiency, and judicial temperament. Judge Connors was awarded the Tecumseh Peacekeeping Award for Dedicated Service to Protecting the Rights of American Indians from the Michigan State Bar Indian Law Section. Judge Connors was presented with the Patriot Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench, the Bar, and the Community from the Washtenaw County Bar Association in 2009.

In 2014, Judge Connors was elected chairman of the board of Eversight, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the restoration of sight. Judge Connors is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Tribal Leadership Forum.

JUDGES



KEVIN RYAN

*President and CEO
Covenant House*

Kevin Ryan is a father, husband, child advocate, blogger, and sometime runner. He arrived at Covenant House as a young lawyer in 1992 to provide legal aid to homeless youth, and he now leads Covenant House International, one of the largest charities in the Americas dedicated to serving homeless youth and ending child trafficking. Founded in 1972, Covenant House's work has been recognized with several of the world's most distinguished human rights awards, including the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award, the WOLA Human Rights Prize, and the Olof Palme Peace Prize.

Kevin describes Covenant House as a movement, and he and the Covenant House team have expanded the movement to 30 cities and 6 countries, most recently opening a new Covenant House in Chicago in 2017. Kevin is leading Covenant House's 60 By 20 Plan, which commits Covenant House to reach at least 60,000 youth per year by 2020. To support this expansion, Kevin and his team have built an international Sleep Out movement, involving thousands of participants across the United States and Canada who have raised funds to house, feed, and help homeless youth.

Kevin previously served as the first public Child Advocate in New Jersey and the first commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, as well as commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, where he oversaw more than 20,000 employees and a budget of \$13 billion.

His first book, *Almost Home*, a collaboration with former New York Times reporter Tina Kelley, became a national best seller in the Fall of 2012. The book tells the stories of six homeless teenagers as they faced abuse, violence, and heartbreak in search of a place to call home. In 2015, President Barack Obama appointed Kevin as a member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Kevin is a graduate of Catholic University, Georgetown Law Center, and NYU Law School. His numerous media appearances include the TODAY Show, EWTN, Good Morning America, and two stints on 60 Minutes. He lives in New Jersey with his wife Clare. Together they have 6 children.

JUDGES



STEVE YAGER

*Executive Director, Children's Services Agency
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

Steve Yager is executive director of the Children's Services Agency at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

In that role, he oversees adoption efforts, foster care, children's protective services, juvenile justice, child welfare licensing, MiSACWIS and children's trust fund.

Yager has more than 32 years of child welfare experience, including 29 years with the State of Michigan. He has worked as a child welfare worker in Children's Protective Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, and Foster Home Licensing and held several supervisory positions, including county director and children's services field director. He was also the longest serving director of the Office of Family Advocate from 2000 to 2008.

Yager is a strong advocate for the well-being and protection of children and has experience working collaboratively with the state legislature, community partners and other child welfare stakeholders.

FACULTY

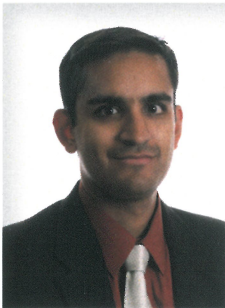


BRIDGETTE CARR

Clinical Professor of Law; Founding Director, Human Trafficking Clinic; University of Michigan Law School

Professor Bridgette Carr, '02, has dedicated her career to advocating for the rights of human trafficking victims and advancing comprehensive domestic and international anti-trafficking policies. Her work focuses on driving paradigm shifts in the way human trafficking victimization is perceived and addressed and helping reintegrate victims by developing legal solutions that address the complex issues of coercion and victimization around compelled service

and its aftermath. She founded Michigan Law's Human Trafficking Clinic in 2009 and has helped establish university law clinics in Mexico, Ethiopia, and Brazil. She is the lead author of the first casebook on human trafficking law and policy, and she regularly provides human trafficking training to law enforcement, government officials, and health care providers, as well as consultations to state, national, and international authorities. She is a member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Taskforce, and in 2013, she was appointed to Michigan's first Commission on Human Trafficking. She has appeared on The Today Show, MSNBC, and National Public Radio, and has been quoted in *The New York Times* and many other news outlets. Professor Carr received her BA, *cum laude*, from the University of Notre Dame and earned her JD, *cum laude*, from Michigan Law. In 2008, she was awarded a Marshall Memorial Fellowship to study human trafficking issues in Europe.



VIVEK SANKARAN

Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Child Advocacy Law Clinic and Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, University of Michigan Law School

Vivek Sankaran, '01, advocates for the rights of children and parents involved in child welfare proceedings. His work focuses on improving outcomes for children in foster care by empowering their parents and strengthening decision-making processes in juvenile courts. Professor Sankaran has written numerous articles focused on improving the child welfare system and has litigated cases before the Michigan Supreme Court. In addition, he conducts state and national trainings and works

on child welfare initiatives with various national groups, including the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, and the National Center for State Courts. After graduating from Michigan Law in 2001, Professor Sankaran received a Skadden Fellowship to represent children at The Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C. In 2005, he joined the Law School faculty. In 2009, Professor Sankaran founded the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the first organization in the country to provide multidisciplinary legal assistance to families to prevent the unnecessary entry of children into foster care. In 2011, he was named Michigan's Parent Attorney of the Year. Most recently, Professor Sankaran co-edited the first national book for family defense lawyers and the third edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice*.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



ALICIA J. DAVIS

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives

Professor of Law

University of Michigan Law School

Since joining the Michigan Law faculty in fall 2004, Professor Alicia J. Davis has taught Enterprise Organization, Mergers and Acquisitions, Investor Protection, and the Law and Economics Workshop. She also serves as the associate dean for strategic initiatives. Her current research includes projects in corporate governance and securities regulation. Before coming to Michigan Law, Professor Davis practiced law at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Washington, D.C., where she represented public and private companies and private equity firms in mergers and acquisitions and leveraged buyout transactions. Her professional experience also includes time as an investment banker, first with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York, where her clients included Fortune 100 companies pursuing equity and debt financings, and later with Raymond James & Associates in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she served as a vice president and represented public and private companies in middle market mergers and acquisitions transactions. Professor Davis served as a visiting professor at the University of Chicago Law School in fall 2010 and is a member of the Florida and District of Columbia Bars. She earned her BS in business administration, *summa cum laude*, from Florida A&M University, her MBA from Harvard Business School, and her JD from Yale Law School.

STUDENTS

▶ **AFTON BRANCHE**

Ford School of Public Policy

▶ **TANIA MORRIS DIAZ**

Law School

▶ **ALEXANDRIA BRIGHAM**

School of Social Work

▶ **ANGELA NI**

Law School

▶ **AMANDA GRILL**

Law School

▶ **JOSHUA RIVERA**

Ford School of Public Policy

▶ **KATHERINE JOH**

Law School

▶ **DANIEL SLANE**

School of Social Work

▶ **OCEANE LANGRENEY**

School of Social Work

▶ **CLAIRE VETTER**

Law School

▶ **CAMILLE MAKER**

School of Public Health

▶ **RILEY WAGNER**

School of Public Health

▶ **ABRAHAM MATSUI**

Law School

▶ **DANIEL WHITMAN**

Law School

▶ **MACKENZIE MOORE**

School of Social Work

ABOUT THE MICHIGAN LAW **PROBLEM SOLVING INITIATIVE**

Michigan Law School's Problem Solving Initiative (PSI) provides a platform for the development of creative solutions to some of the world's most difficult challenges in business and society by giving students a framework for analyzing and solving complex problems and guiding organizations through innovation and change. Through a team-based, experiential, and interdisciplinary learning model, small groups of graduate and professional students work with top-notch faculty to explore and offer solutions to emerging, complex, multifaceted problems. The small group classes, comprising students from a wide variety of top-ranked U-M graduate and professional schools, give participants a unique opportunity to receive guidance from accomplished instructors and leading experts in the business and policy communities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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